

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9958

INFO USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, PK

SUBJECT: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITION

REF: STATE 094637, 103036

1. GOP APPROVAL FOR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY'S (GROESBEEK AND HENNIK) REVISED PLANS FOR KARAKORAM EXPEDITION STILL FORTH-COMING. TOURIST DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OFFICER, NUSRULLAH AWAN, TODAY TOLD EMBOFF THAT HIS OFFICE REQUIRES MAPS OF EXACT ROUTES EXPEDITION WOULD FOLLOW BEFORE MATTER CAN BE FURTHER CONSIDERED. PAK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL ALSO NOTIFY GROESBEEK ABOUT REQUIREMENTS.

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN REPEATED CONTACT WITH SEVERAL GOP OFFICES (MFA, TOURISM) TRYING TO ESTABLISH STATUS OF REQUEST. MFA ASSURES US THAT HENNIK'S INITIALLY PLANNED EXPEDITION TO MITRE PEAK WAS FORMALLY APPROVED ON MARCH 11. HOWEVER, DIFFICULTY OBTAINING NOW IS THAT HENNIK WANTS TO SHIFT TO ANOTHER PEAK CLOSER TO THE BOLTORO GLACIER, HENCE HAS REQUESTED CLEARANCE FOR ADDITIONAL TWO OR THREE PEAKS. AS TO ADDITION OF LOCAL CLIMBERS TO EXPEDITION TO FACILITATE RECEIVING PERMISSION, AWAN NOTES THAT COMPETENT PAK CLIMBERS NOT AVAILABLE, THUS THEIR JOINING EXPEDITION IS OUT OF QUESTION.

3. AS DEPARTMENT MAY BE AWARE, GOP IS BEING INUNDATED THIS
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YEAR WITH REQUESTS FOR PERMISSION TO CLIMB IN KARAKORAMS. TO

DATE, PAKS HAVE AUTHORIZED 35 SEPARATE EXPEDITIONS FOR THIS SUMMER. THUS, GROESBEEK'S AND HENNIK'S LATE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATIONS VERY DIFFICULT FOR PAKS TO ACCOMMODATE AS THEY DO NOT WANT TO HAVE MORE THAN ONE EXPEDITION PER PEAK (IN PAST, THEY SAY, DOUBLING UP HAS LED TO MANY COMPLAINTS).

4. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, HENNIK SEEMS TO HAVE PLACED HIMSELF IN BAD REPUTE WITH GOP AFTER HE RECEIVED THEIR PERMISSION LAST SUMMER TO CLIMB TIRICH MIR ON PAK-AFGHAN BORDER. GOP ASSIGNED LIAISON OFFICER TO HIS EXPEDITION WHO, PAKS SAY, COOLED HIS HEELS IN CHITRAL FOR SIX WEEKS AWAITING HENNIK'S ARRIVAL. HENNIK IN MEANTIME APPARENTLY CLIMBED THE PEAK FROM THE AFGHAN SIDE AND NEVER NOTIFIED GOP THAT HE WAS CANCELLING OUT HERE. DESPITE THIS, HOWEVER, PAKS DID GIVE HIM PERMISSION FOR THE MITRE CLIMB.
BYROADE

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